

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PLACER HILLS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
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Alex Harvey  
Peter Hills  
Fred Lofrano  
Russell McCray  
Mark Wright

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## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING: June 23, 2021

Held in Unit 2A, 17020 Placer Hills Rd., Meadow Vista and by a Zoom teleconference.

1. Call to order; Flag salute; Roll call:

President Hills convened the regular meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Directors in attendance: Harvey, Hills, McCray, Lofrano and Wright.

Directors absent: None

Staff in attendance: Chief Gow, Fire Marshal D'Ambrogi, District Manager Lofrano, Battalion Chiefs Nelson and Williamson.

2. Agenda approval:

Motion made and passed unanimously to accept the posted agenda. (Wright/Lofrano).

3. Approval of the minutes:

District Manager Lofrano apologized for not preparing last month's minutes.

4. Public Comment: None.

5. Correspondence (not covered in Agenda items below): None.

6. Information Items:

a. Fire Chief Ian Gow

- Chief Gow complimented the Battalion Chiefs and staff on doing a great job.
- Placer County Board of Supervisors approved a \$39 million 3-year contract with CalFire. This will provide paramedics and better staffing. A 3-year contract was also approved for the City of Colfax.
- The Penryn Fire Board meeting went well. Chief Nelson is soliciting bids to repair the front wall of the station and the installation of a back-up generator. The Command staff met with the Penryn employees and discussed a Joint Operation Agreement (JOA). There is an "All District Staff" meeting tomorrow.
- All the financial information has been submitted to USDA for Newcastle Fire's loan application. The loan will encumber the budget for 40 years. We will know in a couple of weeks if the application has been approved.
- Auburn City is funding the second fire station. A Captain from both Newcastle and Foresthill have been hired to staff Auburn's second station.
- At South Placer Fire's Board meeting, there was vociferous public opposition to Sacramento Metro Fire's offer of an administrative services agreement. The South Placer Fire Board rejected Metro's offer. South Placer is interviewing candidates for the Fire Chief position.
- Chief Gow informed Chief Ridley, Foresthill that Placer Hills may be willing to enter into a Joint Operations Agreement if the Placer Hills' Battalion Chiefs are on the run card at dispatch for Foresthill incidents. Foresthill staffed only one of their 2 stations

today. Foresthill Board approved a Long Range Committee of Chair Michelini and Director Miller to look at a Joint Powers Agreement/Authority.

*b. Fire Marshal Mark D'Ambrogi*

- Fire Marshal D'Ambrogi has been busy with inspections. He has sent out 2 hazard abatement letters with one going on to the next step.
- He is finishing up with the Local Hazard Mitigation plan and the Community Wildfire protection plan.

*c. Battalion Chief Matt Slusher*

- Chief Slusher reported that the call volume is trending upwards in all 3 districts. Placer County is dealing with a new vendor for incident reporting. We will have better data next month. Chief Slusher thanked Captain Froggatt for his work on all the IT projects. Chief Slusher predicts a busy fire season.
- Chief Slusher has been spending time getting to know the Penryn staff. There are some large areas of Penryn's jurisdiction that are not contiguous.
- We are holding a Captain's test on June 28, 2021 for all 3 districts with 10 candidates.
- Staff completed the classroom portion of RT130, wildfire refresher training, and will be doing the field portion next week.

*Battalion Chief Nelson*

- Chief Nelson reported that we should receive the Type 6 engine from OES next week. We can use it as a first out engine. It requires 3-0 staffing on strike teams, 4-0 staffing is also allowed and will be reimbursed.
- The repair of Station 85's parking lot is scheduled for June 30 and will take 7 days to complete. Chief Nelson thanked the Board for approving this contract.
- Chief Nelson complemented the Penryn staff on a job well done on several structure fires.

*d. Placer Hills Firefighters Association Captain Froggatt:*

- The modified Pioneer Day was a great success.
- Joe Pick from the Firefighters Burn Institute thanked the Association for their boot drive in 2019. The Association has donated over \$45,000 in the past 14 years. He presented Chief Gow with a plaque. He gave a personal shout out to Engineer Chambers for her involvement as a camp counselor.

*e. Local 3800: no report.*

*f. Board Committee reports:*

- *Chief recruitment committee:* on hold
- *Station 84 replacement:* The Long Range Committee met with the Architect who presented 2 options. Everyone preferred the traditional building. The architect mentioned there may be height restrictions in Meadow Vista but he can easily modify the plans. The Church seems favorable with the proposed use of a portion of their property. Director Lofrano suggested getting the Measure A community group together to look at assessments to fund the new station. Once we get the go ahead from the Church, we will share the proposed new station to local community groups.

7. Discussion and Action Items:

a. Personnel promotion: Firefighter Ryan Suddjian to Engineer:

Battalion Chief Williamson recapped Engineer Suddjian's experience with Placer Hills, beginning as an intern, promoting to seasonal firefighter and now Engineer. He has been attending lots of classes and is a great asset to the fire district. Engineer Suddjian was pinned by his father and congratulated by all.

b. Pension Obligation Bond financing option and recommendation by Jeff Small, Capitol Public Finance Group:

Jeff Small gave a PowerPoint presentation recommending the issuance and sale of bonds to pay off certain pension obligations with CalPERS. Capitol Public Finance handles the distribution into the appropriate funds. Motion made and passed unanimously by roll call, to adopt Resolution 21-02 authorizing the sale of said bonds and actions related thereto. (Lofrano/Wright). This will save the tax-payers a lot of money in the future.

c. Approve the amended Administrative Services Agreement with Newcastle Fire Protection District:

The amended agreement includes section 2.7 Independent Contractors which was approved by district counsel. Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the amended Services Agreement with Newcastle Fire District. (McCray/Lofrano).

d. Approve Fire Chief Ian Gow's employment contract for the term of August 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022:

Motion made and passed unanimously to approve Fire Chief Gow's employment contract from August 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. (Harvey/Wright).

e. Report from the Ad-Hoc Committee about discussions with Foresthill Fire Board representatives regarding the possibility of a Joint Operations Agreement (JOA):

Director Wright met with Foresthill Directors Miller and Simonick and discussed the run card for the response of the Battalion Chiefs. This is the biggest issue. Director Wright would like to move forward on an agreement. Chief Slusher noted that the Joint Operations Agreement not only provides staffing options but is a precursor for future consolidations. Chief Gow reported that Foresthill has approved a Long Range Committee to look at restarting the Directors Group to include cities and the east-side fire districts. Chief Gow suggested that we don't have the band width to look at this broad picture at this time and to concentrate on our districts. Director Harvey will contact Director Simonick.

f. Adopt the Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2021/2022 and Resolution 21-03 increasing the direct charges by a cost of living adjustment:

There was little change from the draft preliminary budget presented at last month's meeting. Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2021/22 and Resolution 21-03 increasing the direct charges by a cost of living. (Lofrano/McCray).

g. Grand Jury report on Special Districts and LAFCO websites:

Chief Gow reported that staff can make the necessary actions to comply with the Grand Jury's recommendations. Motion made and passed unanimously to make these actions and report compliance to the Grand Jury. (Lofrano/Wright).

*h. Paramedic Retention Proposal:*

Chief Gow and staff are continuing to fine tune the proposal. It takes about 2 years to become an accredited paramedic.

*i. Update on the Department's COVID-19 response:*

Everything is starting to open up. Chief Gow and staff will discuss opening stations and reducing disinfecting practices. The Delta variant is becoming the dominant strain but the existing vaccines work well against it. Chief Gow is getting legal advice on district employees' disclosure on status of vaccination.

*j. Budget update and approval of expenses:*

Chief Gow reported that 96% of the budget has elapsed. Everything looks good. Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the budget update and the expenses of \$201,435.33. (Lofrano/McCray).

8. Directors' comments:

*a. Report on activities of interest to the District which the Director is engaged in or is considering. No action will be taken on these items at this meeting.*

- Director Lofrano attended the Penryn Fire Board meeting. Everyone seems to be happy with Placer Hills' affiliation. One Board member did bring up that Placer Hills reserve engine was being used in Penryn while Engine 38 was being repaired. He wanted to reassure the Penryn public that they are not losing their identity.

*b. Request items for inclusion in subsequent meetings or request a special meeting: ~~Director Harvey requested that items on the agenda be designated either "action" or "discussion".~~*

*c. Reminder of next Board meeting(s): July 28, 2021.*

9. Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_



Gillian Lofrano, Board Secretary

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

